

REGENESIS™

#230 | MARVEL

DAVID
LUPACCHINO
ORTEGO
MILLA

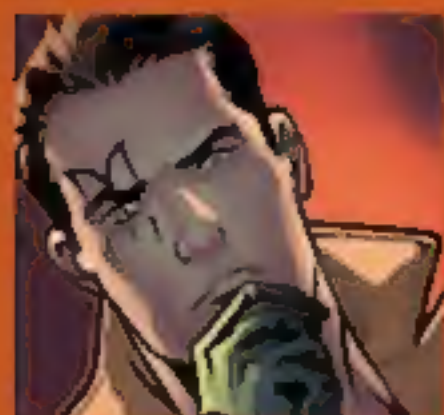
X-FACTOR



Founded by Jamie Madrox and staffed by a group of the best mutant heroes around... when superhumanity needs a detective agency, they call on X-Factor Investigations.

X-FACTOR

MULTIPLE MAN



JAMIE MADROX
Self Duplication

BUTTERFLY



LAYLA MILLER
Resurrection

SHATTERSTAR



GAVEEDRA SEVEN
Teleportation

RICTOR



JULIO RICHTER
Seismic Control

STRONG GUY



GUIDO CAROSELLA
Strong Guy

M



MONET ST. CROIX
Telepathy, Flight, Super-Strength, Invulnerability, Teakiness

BANSHEE



THERESA CASSIDY
Sonic Scream

WOLFSBANE



RAHNE SINCLAIR
Werewolf

LONGSHOT



Luck

PIP THE TROLL



PIP GOFERN
Troll

PREVIOUSLY

In the final battle with the demonic Bloodbath, Jamie Madrox was killed and the team learned that, some time earlier, Layla Miller had brought Guido back from the dead, except soulless. Now, while the team copes with this knowledge, Madrox appears to be bouncing around to alternate dimensions for no reason he understands.

Meanwhile Peter David marched in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade, pulling the Spider-Man balloon. He's visible, second from the left, in a picture online at the National Post.

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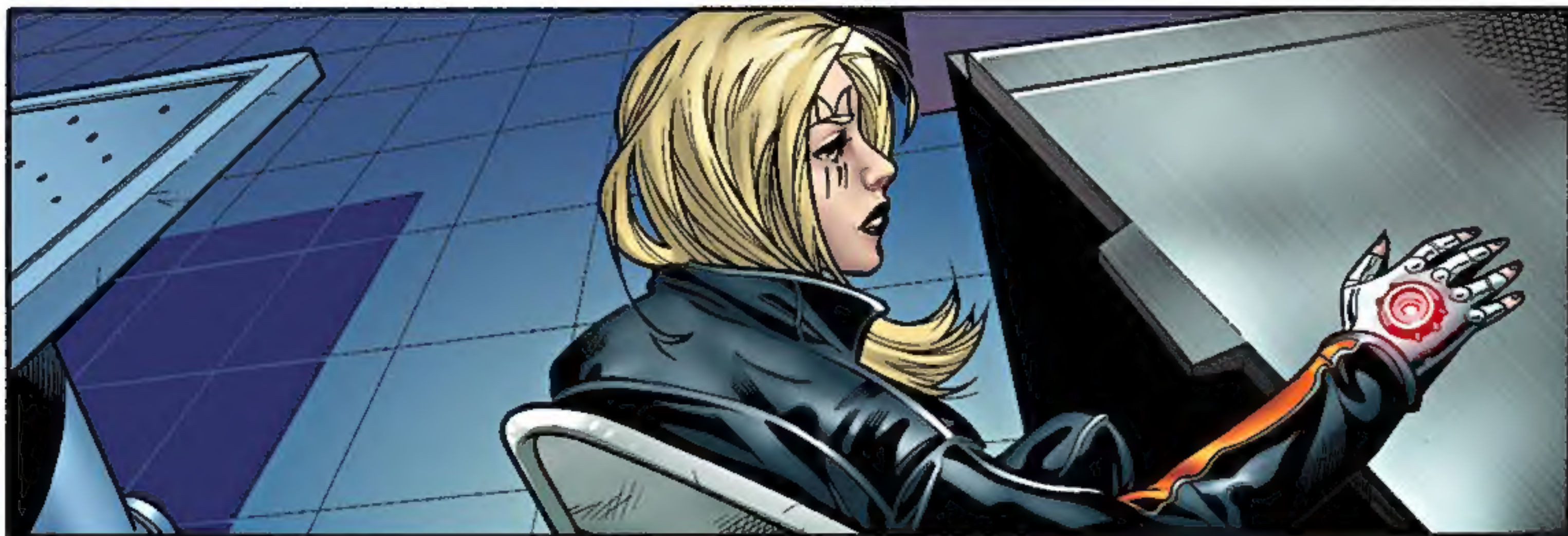
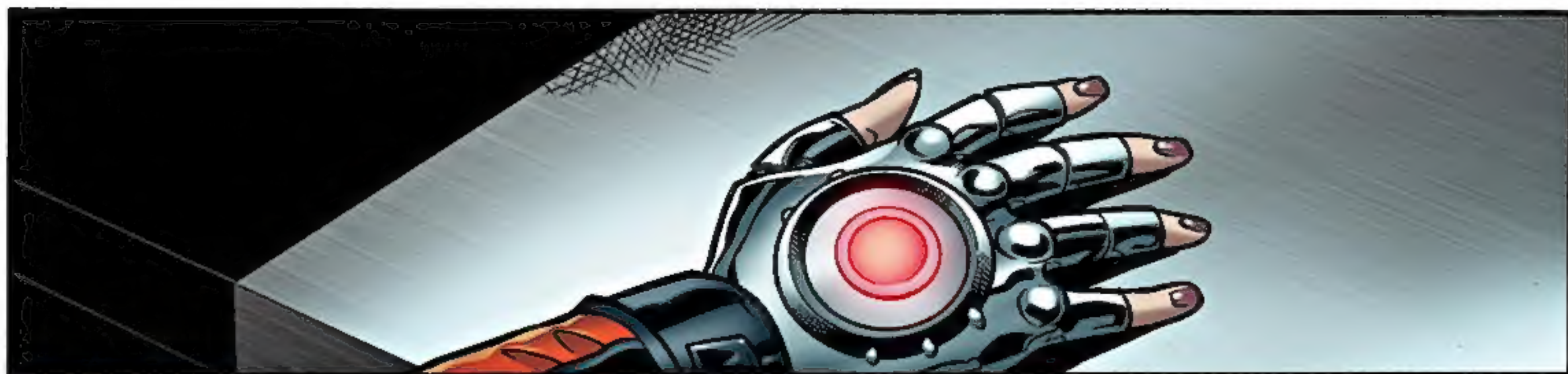
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X-FACTOR (ISSN #1932-5266) No. 230, March 2012. Published Monthly by MARVEL WORLDWIDE, INC., a subsidiary of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT, LLC. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 135 West 50th Street, New York, NY 10020. PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, NY AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. © 2012 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive names and likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of Marvel Characters, Inc. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. \$2.99 per copy in the U.S. (GST #R127032852) in the direct market and \$3.99 per copy in the U.S. and \$3.99 in Canada (GST #R127032852) through the newsstand; Canadian Agreement #40668537; Printed in the USA. Subscription rate (U.S. dollars) for 12 issues: U.S. \$27.00; Canada \$41.00; Foreign \$41.00. POSTMASTER: SEND ALL ADDRESS CHANGES TO X-FACTOR, C/O MARVEL SUBSCRIPTION DEPT., P.O. BOX 5187 BRENTWOOD, TN 37024. TELEPHONE # (800) 217-9158. FAX # (615) 377-0525. subscriptions@marvel.com. ALAN FINE, EVP - Office of the President, Marvel Worldwide, Inc. and EVP & CMO Marvel Characters B.V.; DAN BUCKLEY, Publisher & President - Print, Animation & Digital Divisions; JOE QUESADA, Chief Creative Officer; TOM BREVOORT, SVP of Publishing; DAVID BOGART, SVP of Operations & Procurement; Publishing; RUWAN JAYATILLEKE, SVP & Associate Publisher, Publishing; C.B. CEBULSKI, SVP of Creator & Content Development; DAVID GABRIEL, SVP of Publishing Sales & Circulation; MICHAEL PASCIULLO, SVP of Brand Planning & Communications; JIM O'KEEFE, VP of Operations & Logistics; DAN CARR, Executive Director of Publishing Technology; SUSAN CRESPI, Editorial Operations Manager; ALEX MORALES, Publishing Operations Manager; STAN LEE, Chairman Emeritus. For information regarding advertising in Marvel Comics or on Marvel.com, please contact John Dokes, SVP of Integrated Sales & Marketing, at jdokes@marvel.com. For Marvel subscription inquiries, please call 800-217-9158. Manufactured between 12/09/2011 and 12/27/2011 by R.R. DONNELLEY, INC., GLASGOW, KY, USA.



HOW LONG'S SHE BEEN THERE?

DAYS. SHE JUST... SITS. AND SHE SITS.

AND SHE SITS, SITS, SITS, SITS. LIKE A DOCTOR SEUSS CHARACTER.



LAYLA?
THIS ISN'T GOING TO...



REMOVE THE HAND OR I'LL DO TO YOUR FINGERS WHAT YOU DID TO JAMIE'S.



THEY KEEP KILLING MADROX

PART TWO

LEAVE 'ER
TO ME.

GLADLY.





AW
GOD, AW
GOD...

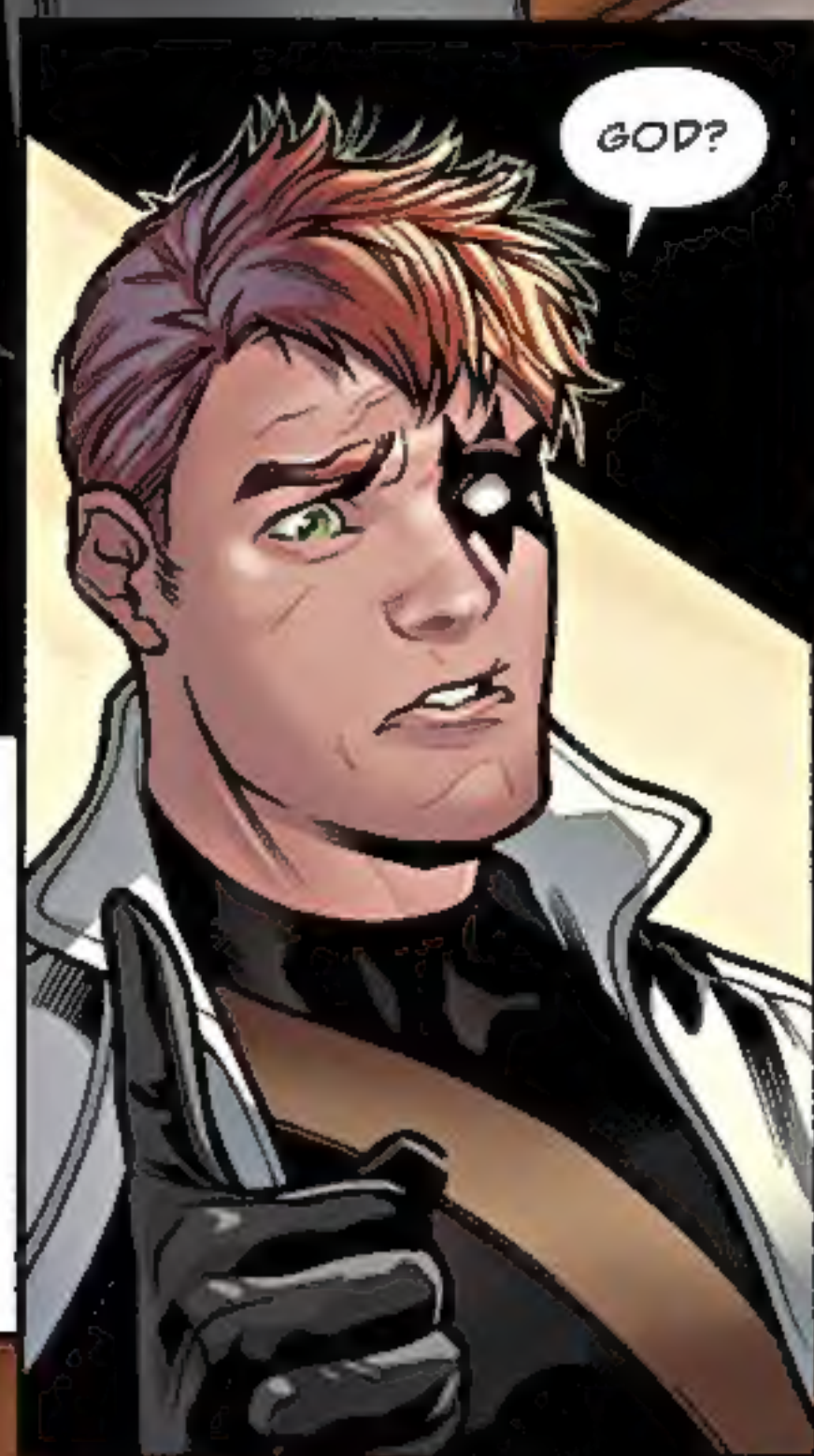
WHAT
HAPPENED?

AW
GOD...

SOMEONE
UNEXPECTED
SHOWED UP AT
THE FRONT
DOOR.

AW
GOD...

YOU'LL
NEVER GUESS
WHO.



GOD?



UHM...
NO.

JUSTIN
BIEBER?

WOLVERINE?

NO, IT'S
NOT--



HOLY
CRAP.

HOW
DID YE
KNOW?

WELL, HE
TENDS TO BE
EVERYWHERE.

NOT AS
MUCH AS
JUSTIN BIEBER,
BUT STILL...



SO
WHY'S HE
HERE?

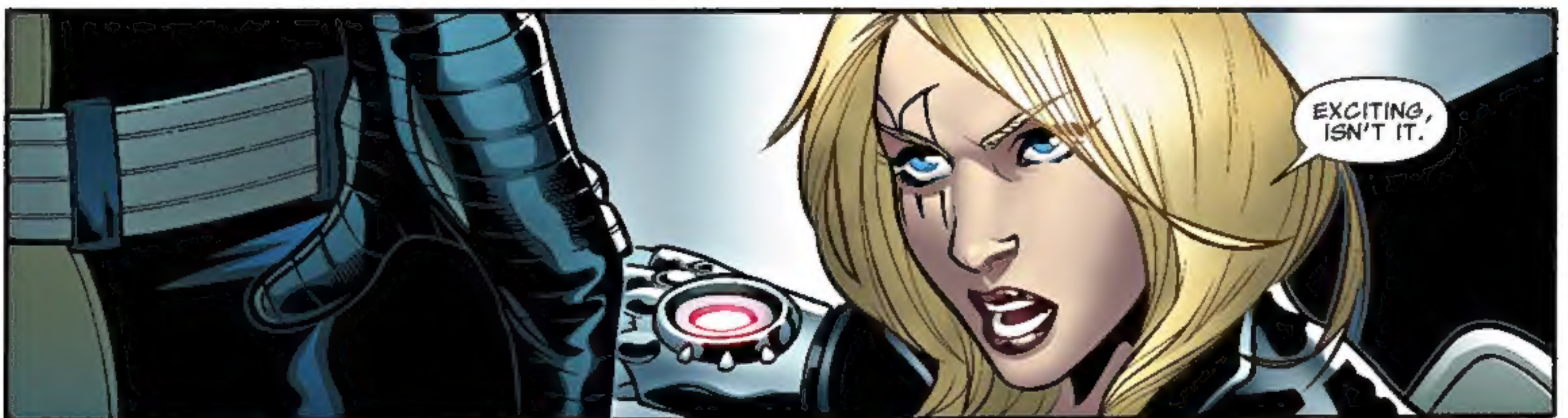
HE HASN'T
SAID YET,
BUT RAHNE'S
WORRIED.

WHY?

BECAUSE
BAD THINGS
HAPPEN WHEN
HE'S AROUND.

USUALLY
T'ME.





"BECAUSE OF WHAT
I DID TO GUIDO."

"FOR GUIDO."

"TO...GUIDO."



I AIN'T GONNA
START EATIN'
YOUR BRAINS,
Y'KNOW.

HOW
CAN WE BE
SURE?

'CAUSE I
AIN'T DEAD,
Y'IDJIT! I JUST,
Y'KNOW...DON'T
GOT A SOUL.

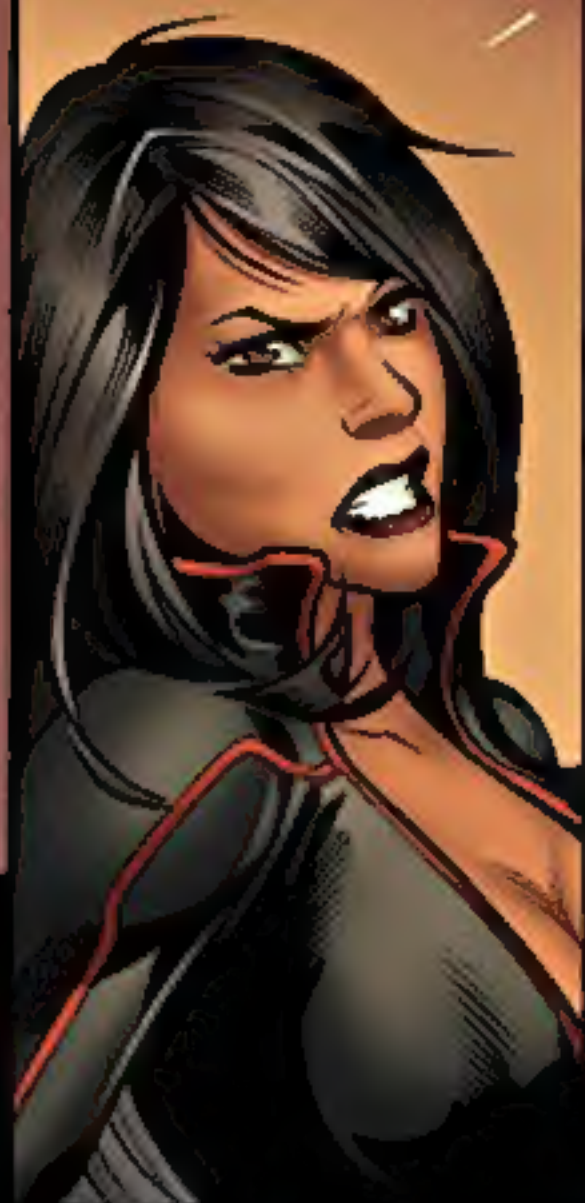


WELL, PARDON
THE HELL OUT OF
US IF WE'RE JUST
A BIT CREEPED
OUT BY IT.

NO
REASON
T'BE.

NO
REASON?
YOU HAVE NO
SOUL!

NO
MORALITY! NO
RESTRAINT!
YOU'RE
LIKE A...A
TIME BOMB OF
POTENTIAL EVIL!



YOU
DON'T KNOW
THAT! THERE'S
A BAZILLION BAD
GUYS OUT THERE
WHO HAVE
SOULS!

SO WHY
CAN'T THERE BE
ONE GOOD GUY
WHO DON'T GOT A
SOUL, HUH? EVER
THINK THAT COULD
BE A BENEFIT TO
THIS TEAM?

HOW?



BECAUSE
HE CAN DO
WHAT WE
CAN'T.

OR
WON'T.





HE CAN DO THE THINGS THAT, IF WE DID THEM, WE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO SLEEP AT NIGHT.

THINGS THAT NEED TO BE DONE EVEN THOUGH WE DON'T WANT TO.

THINGS WE'D BE WORRIED WE'D GO TO HELL OVER.



ISN'T BLOVIATING ABOUT HELL USUALLY RAHNE'S THING, TERRY?

I'M CATHOLIC, MONET. WE HAVE SOME SMALL EXPERIENCE WITH IT.

WHAT, MUSLIMS DON'T?



YOU'RE GIVING ME GRIEF ABOUT BEING MUSLIM NOW? YOU?

I WAS JUST ASKING. DON'T BE SO DEFENSIVE.



YES, WE HAVE HELL. WE CALL IT JAHANNAM.

AND BELIEVE ME, THANKS TO EMPLATE, I'VE HAD A PREVIEW OF WHAT IT'D PROBABLY BE LIKE.

YOUR POINT BEING?



I CAN DO WHATEVER NEEDS TO BE DONE.

I DON'T NEED A FREAK TO DO IT FOR ME.





SO HOW LONG ARE YA GONNA BE KEEPING HIM LIKE THIS?

BUT EVEN IF HE COMES BACK...HE GOT STABBED, DIDN'T HE? HIS BODY...

AS LONG AS IT TAKES.



IT'S REPAIRED.

MAGIC?

THIRD YEAR MED STUDENT. THEY'RE ALWAYS HAPPY TO CRACK A CADAVER.

IT'S EASY TO SEW UP INTERNAL DAMAGE WHEN THERE'S NO DANGER OF BLEEDING OUT.



HERE'S WHAT I DON'T GET. YER WHOLE THING IS KNOWIN' STUFF, RIGHT?

RIGHT.

SO HOW DID YOU NOT KNOW THIS WAS COMIN'?



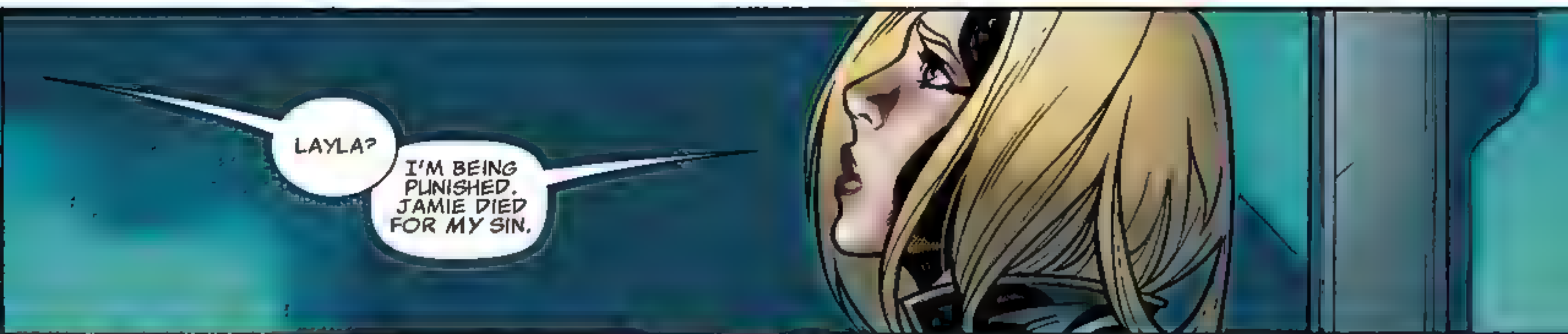
"JOURNAL ENTRY #227...TODAY WE FOUGHT A DEMON CALLING ITSELF BLOODBATH..."



"THE BATTLE WOUND UP TAKING US TO AN EMPTY STUDIO LOT IN LOS ANGELES. THERE MONET AND SHATTERSTAR TEAMED UP TO KILL HIM.



"IT'S A SHAME GUIDO'S DEAD. I BET HE WOULD HAVE LOVED SQUARING OFF AGAINST SOMEONE LIKE BLOODBATH. GOD, I MISS HIM."



LAYLA?

I'M BEING
PUNISHED.
JAMIE DIED
FOR MY SIN.



WHAT'RE
YOU--?

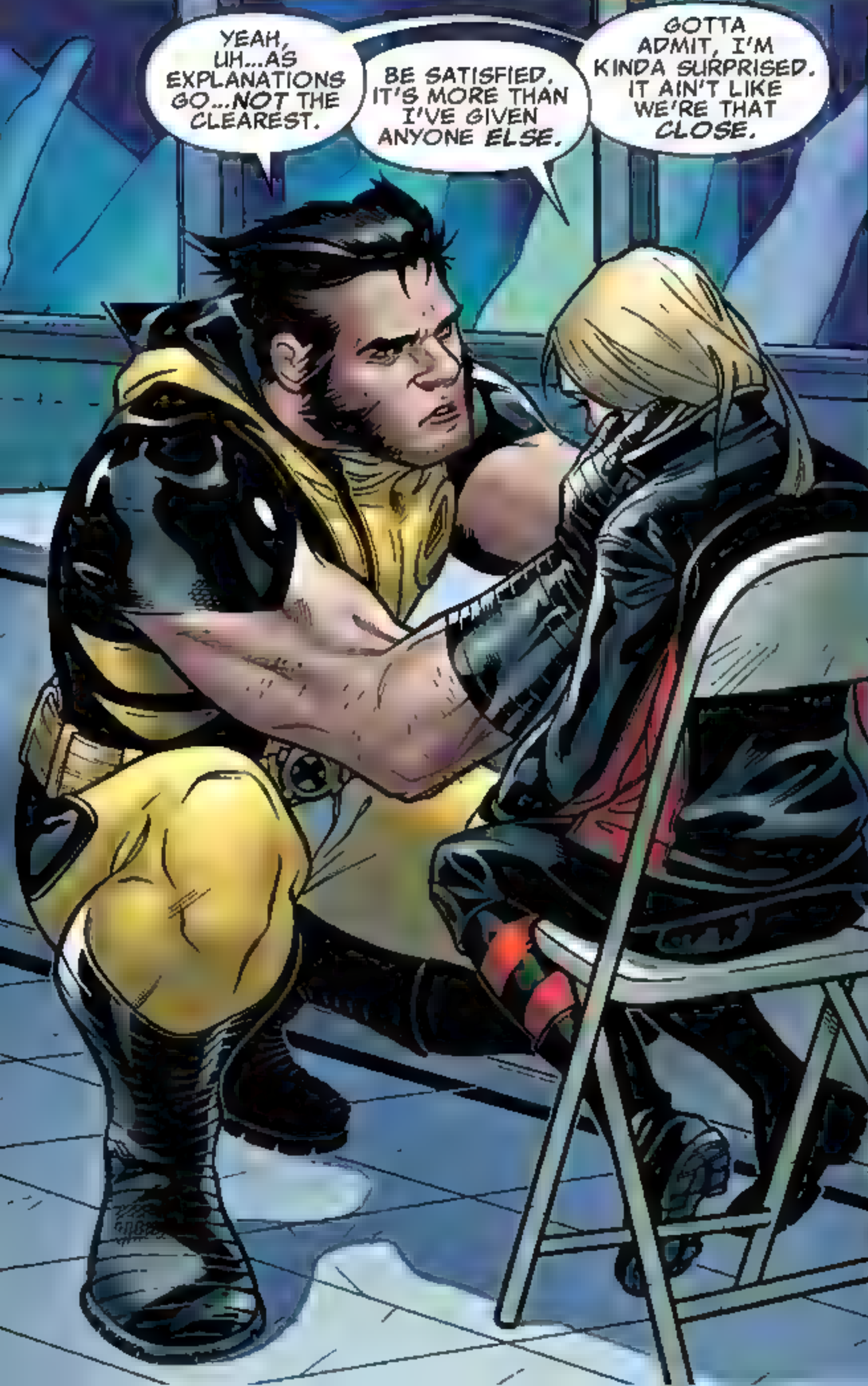
I KNEW WHAT
WAS SUPPOSED
TO HAPPEN. IT WAS
RIGHT THERE, RIGHT
IN MY JOURNAL,
WHEN I READ IT
EIGHTY YEARS
FROM NOW.

AND I
IGNORED IT.
I FIGURED, ONE
TIME, I COULD
GET AWAY
WITH IT.



AND I WAS
WRONG.

AND
JAMIE PAID
FOR IT.



YEAH,
UH...AS
EXPLANATIONS
GO...NOT THE
CLEAREST.

BE SATISFIED.
IT'S MORE THAN
I'VE GIVEN
ANYONE ELSE.

GOTTA
ADMIT, I'M
KINDA SURPRISED.
IT AIN'T LIKE
WE'RE THAT
CLOSE.

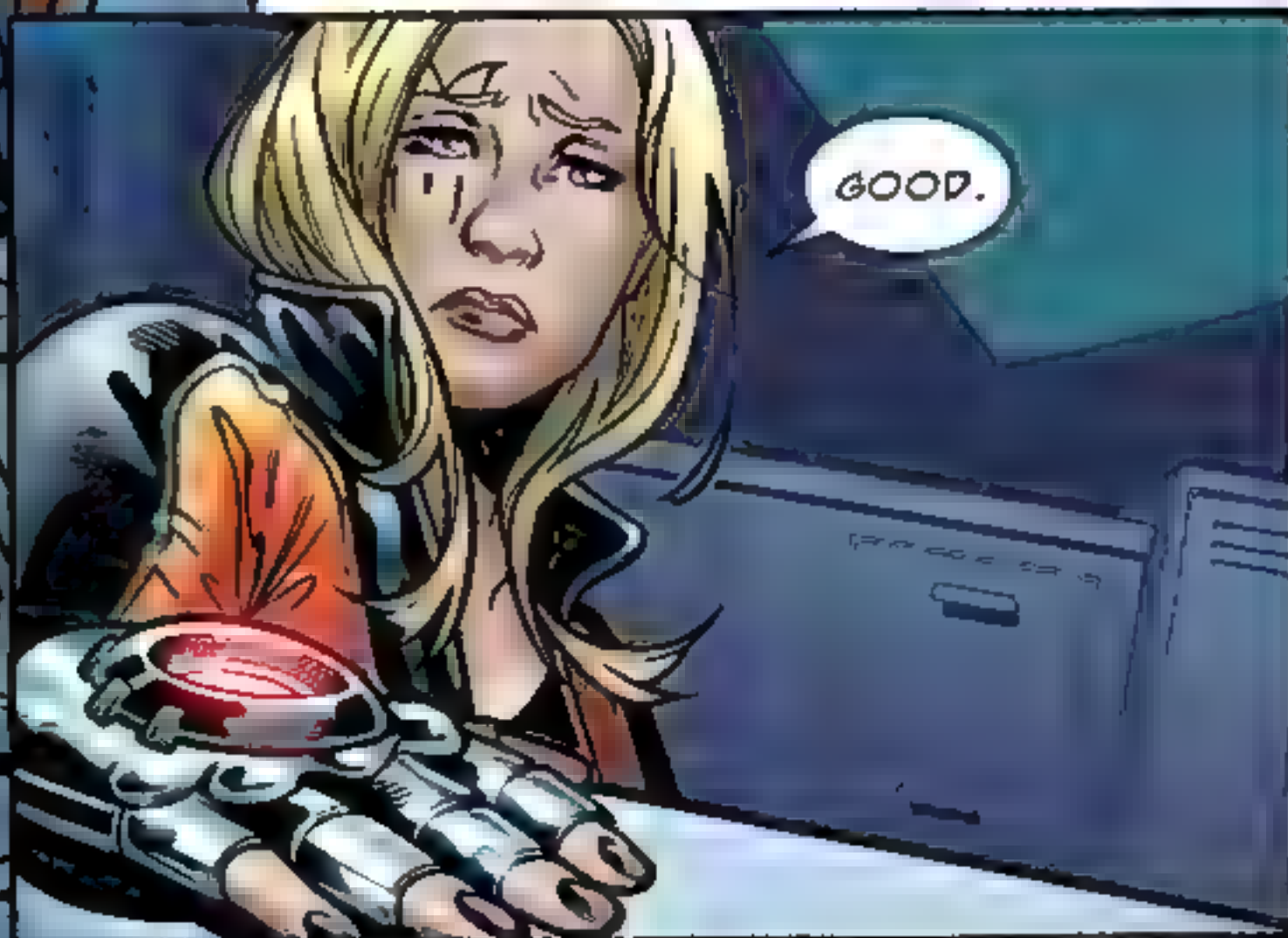


NO. WE'RE
NOT. THAT'S
PROBABLY
WHY.


MAYBE IT'S
BECAUSE YOU
UNDERSTAND THE IDEA
OF BEING ALONE IN A
CROWD. OF ONLY
PRETENDING TO
BELONG WHEN YOU
KNOW IN YOUR HEART
YOU DON'T.

I CAN
RELATE...TO
NOT RELATING.
GET IT?

GOT
IT.



GOOD.



NOT
GOOD.

DEFINITELY
NOT GOOD.

THAT'S GOTTA BE ME...
OR WHAT'S LEFT OF ME.
OF ANOTHER ME.

I'M BEING PULLED
FROM ONE WORLD
TO THE NEXT
THROUGH DEAD OR
DYING ALTERNATE
VERSIONS OF ME.

BUT...WHAT
DOES IT
MEAN?
IS IT--?

IS...THAT HOW MY POWERS
WORK? THAT WHEN I CREATE
DUPES, I'M PULLING THEM
FROM ALTERNATE REALITIES?

AND THAT IT'S REVERSED
ITSELF NOW? THAT I'M
NOW A DUPE, BEING
SHUNTED FROM ONE PLACE
TO THE NEXT?

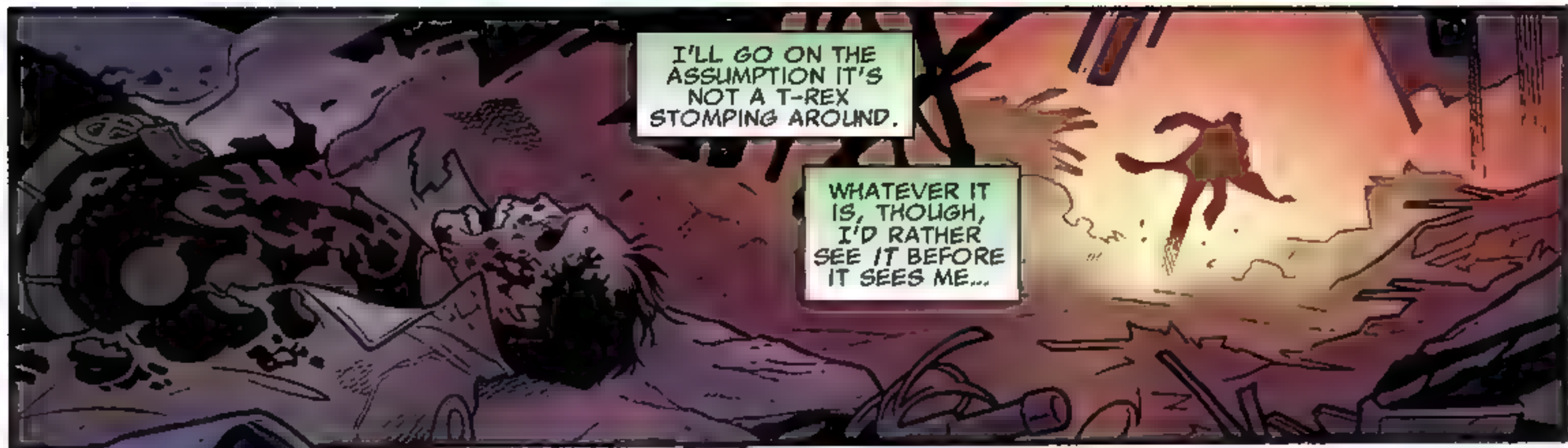
DOES THAT EVEN
MAKE SENSE?



AND WHY WAS TRY
THE ELDER IN THE
PREVIOUS WORLD?
IS HE SOMEHOW
CONNECTED TO--

WHOA.

SOMETHING...SOME THINGS...
JUST LANDED NEARBY. THE
VIBRATION ALONE NEARLY
KNOCKED ME OFF MY FEET.



I'LL GO ON THE
ASSUMPTION IT'S
NOT A T-REX
STOMPING AROUND.

WHATEVER IT
IS, THOUGH,
I'D RATHER
SEE IT BEFORE
IT SEES ME...



THEY'RE GETTING
CLOSER. THAT'LL
HAVE TO DO.

GOD, THIS COULD
GO ON FOREVER.
ME JUMPING FROM ONE
REALITY TO ANOTHER...

MAYBE THE
TEAM KNOWS THIS
IS HAPPENING.

I BET THEY DO. I BET
THAT RIGHT NOW THEY'RE
WORKING ON FINDING A
WAY TO BRING ME HOME.



ADMIT IT, TERRY, THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH GUIDO AND EVERYTHING TO DO WITH YOUR FATHER.



THAT'S UNCALLED FOR.

IT'S ENTIRELY CALLED FOR.

MY DA IS DEAD. I'VE ACCEPTED THAT.



NOW, YES. BUT YOU WERE IN DENIAL LONGER THAN MOST PEOPLE WERE IN MOURNING.

THAT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS...



YEAH, IT IS MY BUSINESS, TERRY! IT'S MY BUSINESS WHEN SOMEONE'S INABILITY TO LET GO MEANS THAT A DEAD GUY IS SITTING IN THE REC ROOM!

YO! CERTIFIED BY DOCTORS AS 100% NOT DEAD!

AND I GOT THE HOSPITAL BILL T'PROVE IT!



WHAT'RE YE GOIN' ON ABOUT? THERESA DIDN'T BRING HIM BACK!

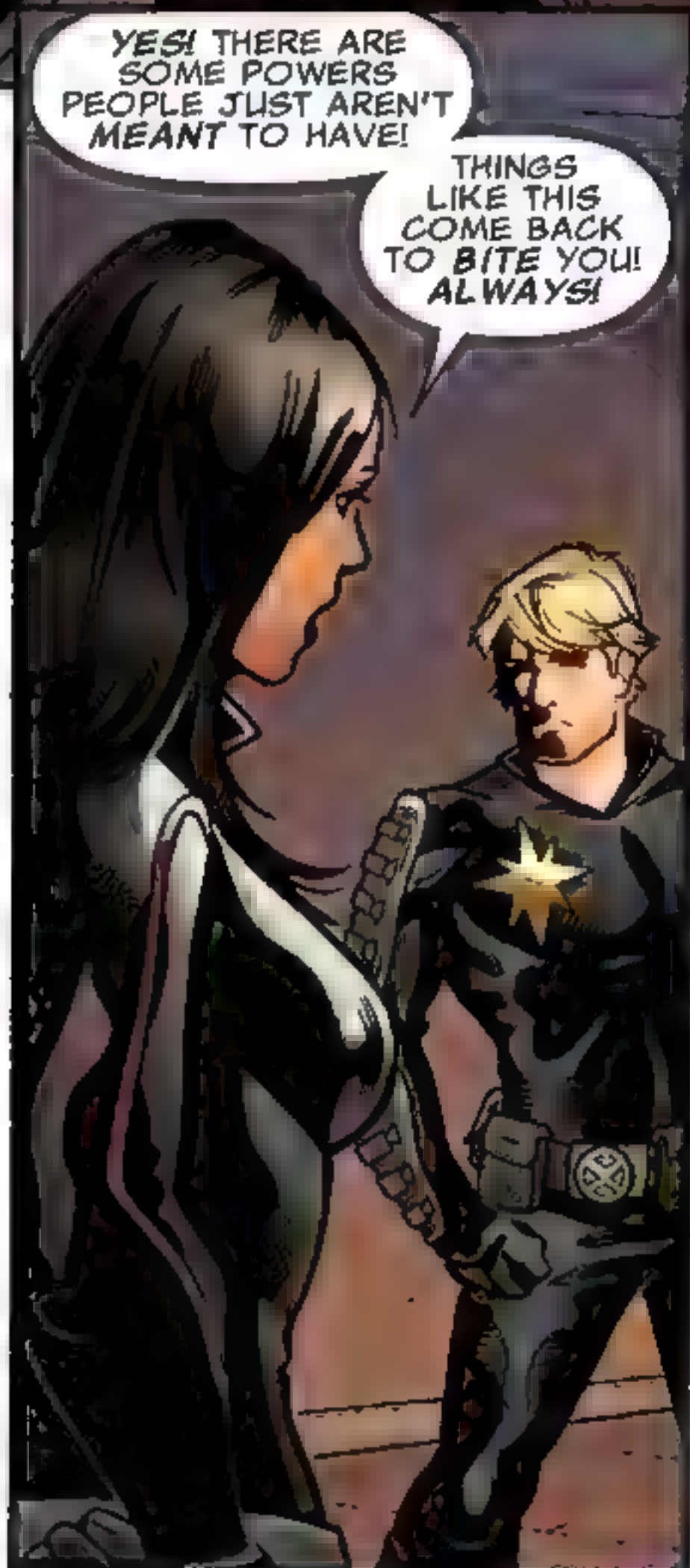
OH GREAT, NOW THE PEANUT GALLERY'S WEIGHING IN.



THE "PEANUT GALLERY" HAS A POINT! LAYLA BROUGHT HIM BACK, NOT ME!

BUT YOU HAVE THE SAME MINDSET! YOU CAN'T LET ANYTHING GO! LAYLA WOULD'VE BROUGHT BACK MADROX IF IT WERE UP TO YOU!

WOULD THAT BE SO BAD, REALLY?



YES! THERE ARE SOME POWERS PEOPLE JUST AREN'T MEANT TO HAVE!

THINGS LIKE THIS COME BACK TO BITE YOU! ALWAYS!



NOT ALWAYS.

WE'RE HEROES. DEATH IS JUST ANOTHER CHALLENGE TO BE OVERCOME.



BUT LAYLA DIDN'T OVERCOME IT, STAR! SHE BROUGHT BACK, I DUNNO... HALF A MAN!

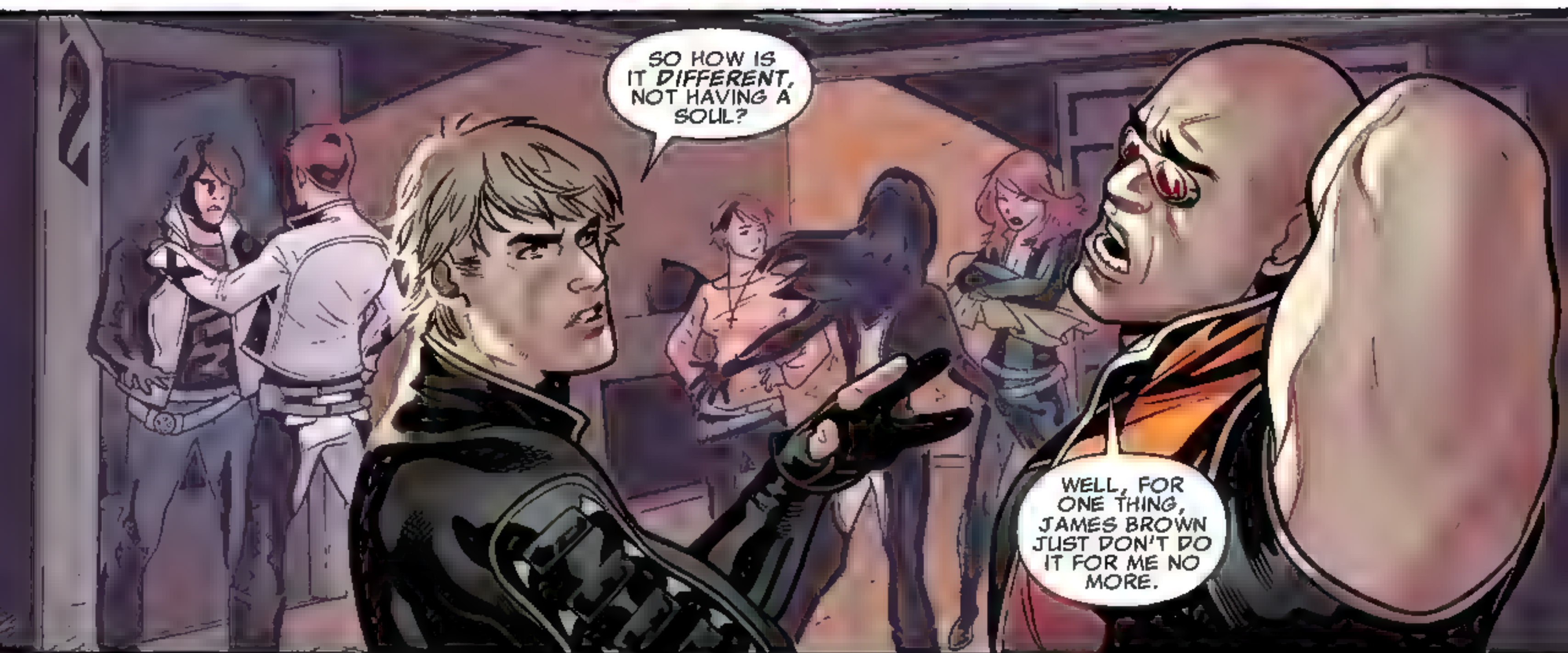


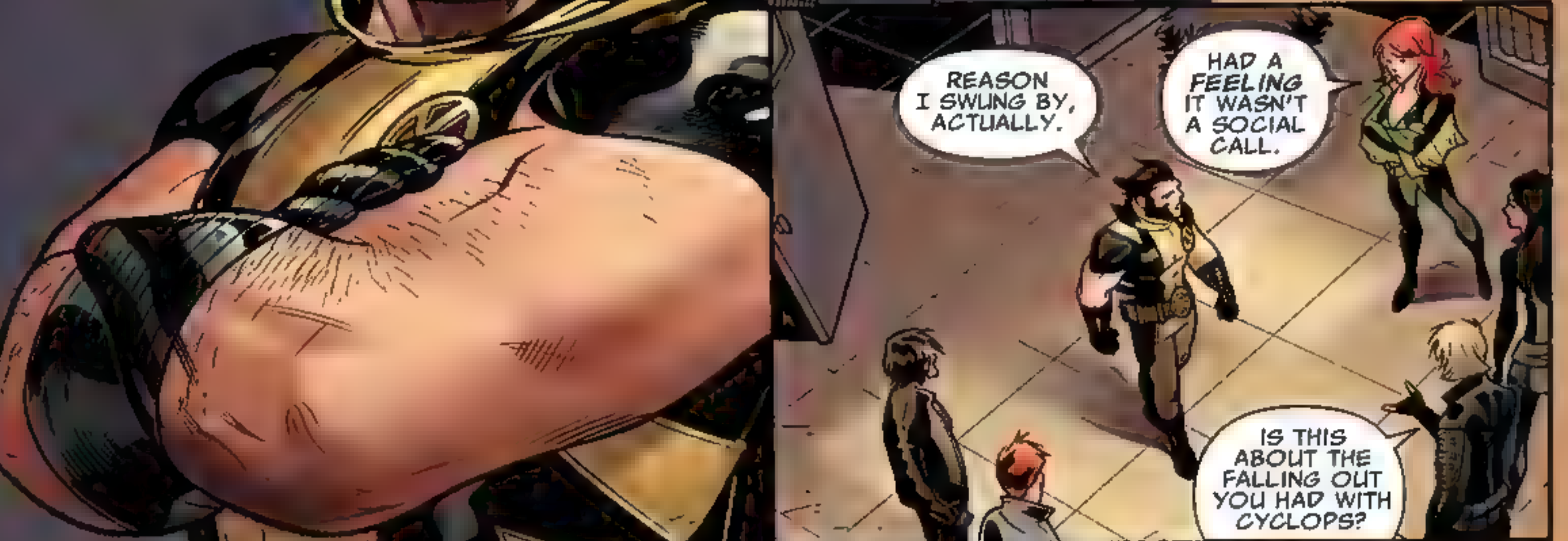
HEY! I'M ALL-MAN, PAL! WANNA SEE THESE PECS IN ACTION? YA WANNA WATCH ME DO A THOUSAND ONE-HANDED PUSH-UPS? 'CAUSE I'LL DO 'EM!

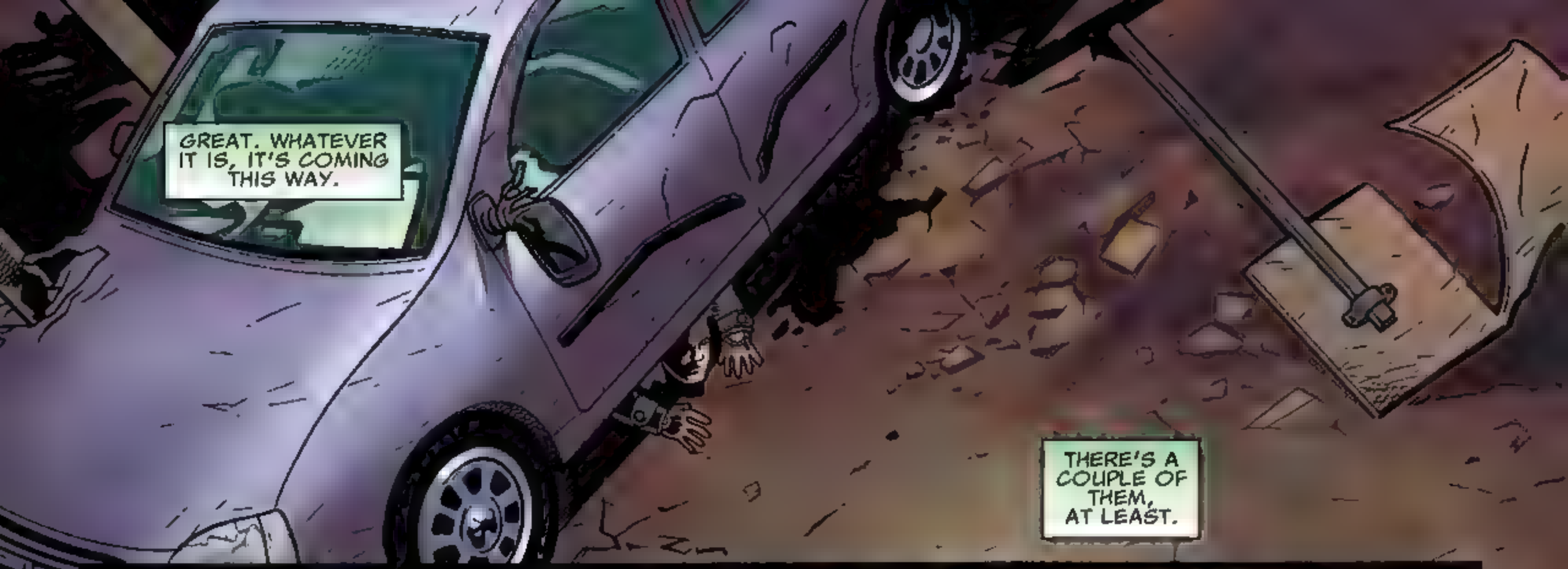


I ACTUALLY WOULD LIKE TO SEE TH--

KNOCK IT OFF!





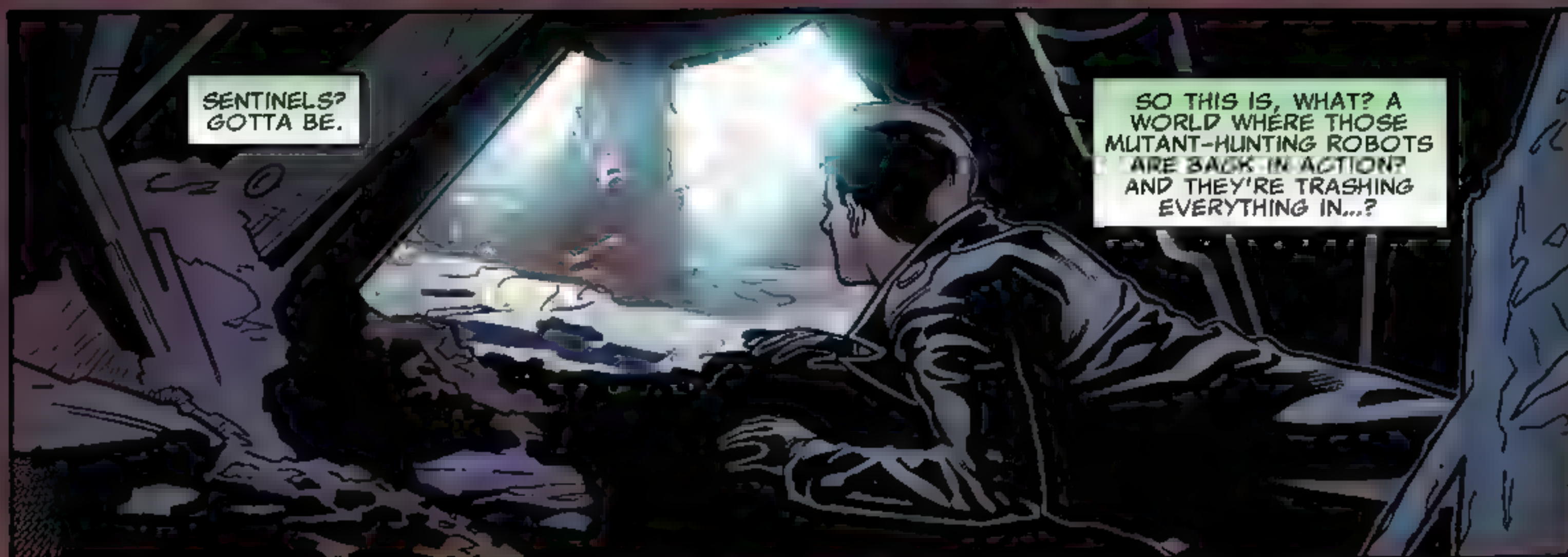


GREAT. WHATEVER
IT IS, IT'S COMING
THIS WAY.

THERE'S A
COUPLE OF
THEM,
AT LEAST.



WHAT THE HELL
ARE THEY?
ARE THEY--?



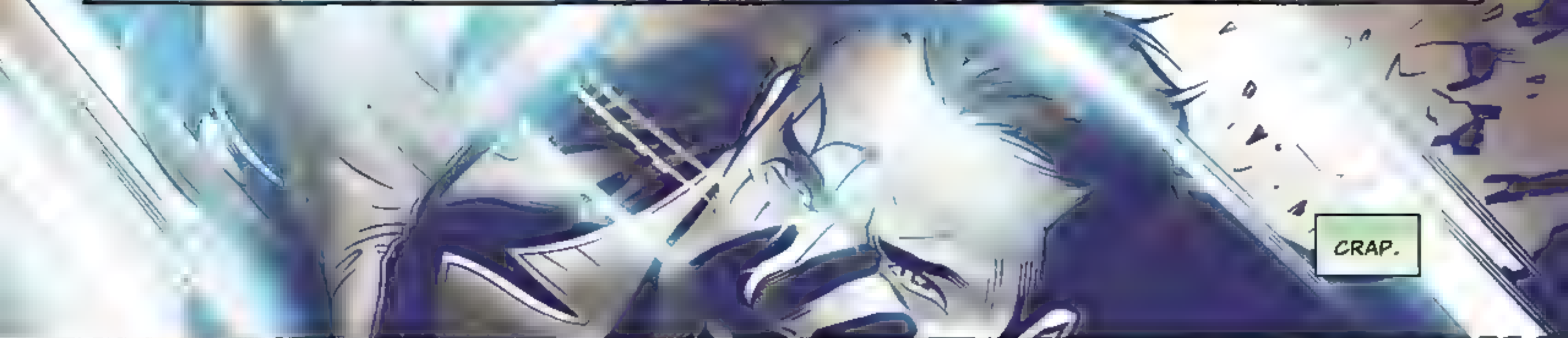
SENTINELS?
GOTTA BE.

SO THIS IS, WHAT? A
WORLD WHERE THOSE
MUTANT-HUNTING ROBOTS
ARE BACK IN ACTION?
AND THEY'RE TRASHING
EVERYTHING IN...?



AW NO.

ARE YOU
KIDDING ME?
ARE YOU
FREAKING
KIDDING M--



CRAP.

YEAH, THIS
DAY'S JUST
GETTING
BETTER AND
BETTER.





SEE,
HERE'S THE
THING...



A BUNCH OF
US LEFT SCOTT'S
UTOPIA AND
HAVE RELOCATED
TO THE OLD
HOMESTEAD.

YOU MEAN
YOU DECIDED
THAT SEGREGATING
YOURSELVES FROM
HUMANITY WAS
DAMAGING TO
HUMAN-MUTANT
RELATIONS?

AMONG
OTHER
THINGS.

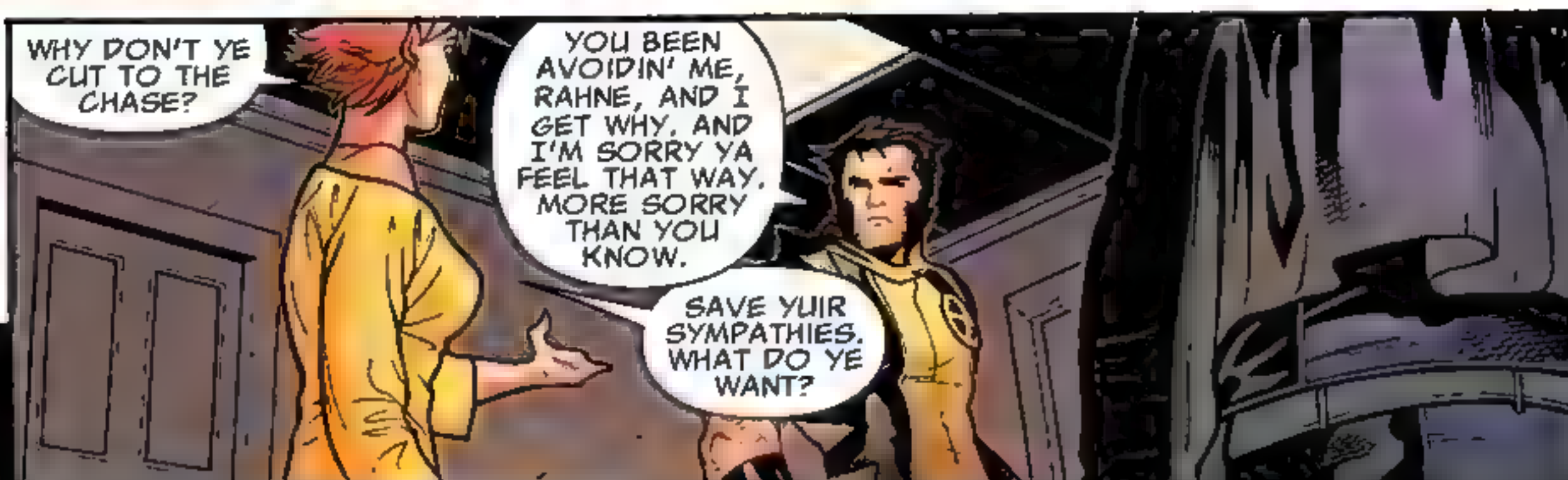


JAMIE
WOULD'VE
LOVED
THAT...



NOT LOVED
THAT PEOPLE
WERE LEAVING
UTOPIA, I
MEAN...

...BUT THAT
PEOPLE WERE
SEEING IT HIS
WAY.



WHY DON'T YE
CUT TO THE
CHASE?

YOU BEEN
AVOIDIN' ME,
RAHNE, AND I
GET WHY. AND
I'M SORRY YA
FEEL THAT WAY.
MORE SORRY
THAN YOU
KNOW.

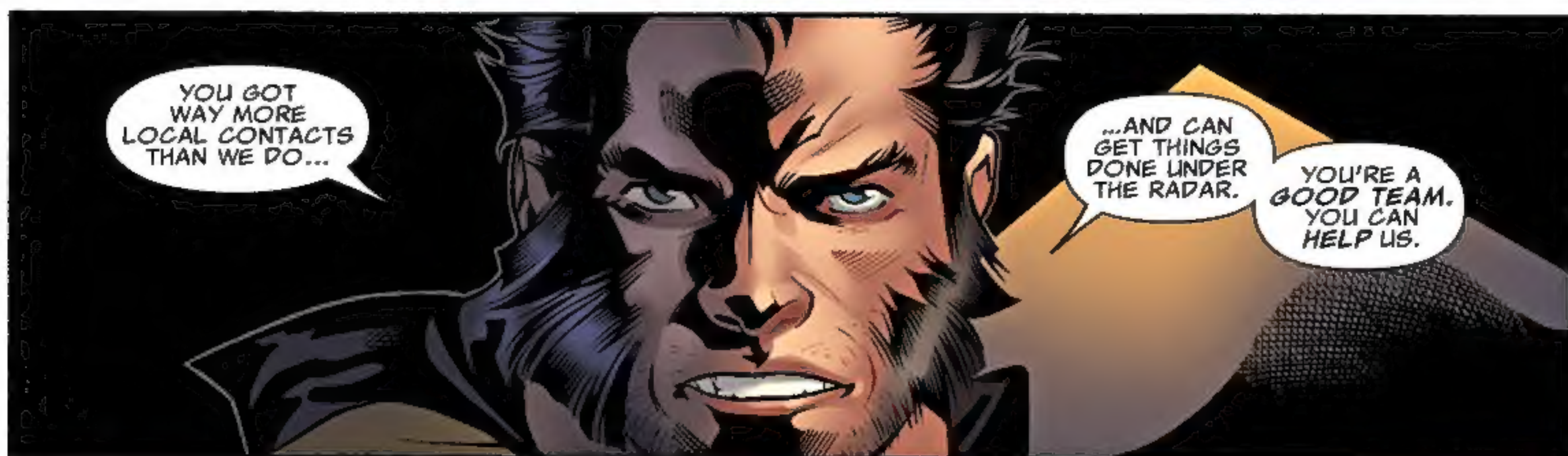
SAVE YUIR
SYMPATHIES.
WHAT DO YE
WANT?



BASICALLY I WANT TO PUT YOU ALL ON RETAINER.

ASIDE FROM THE FACT THAT MY GUYS CAN'T BE EVERYWHERE, SOMETIMES THINGS ARE GONNA COME ALONG THAT NEED A SCALPEL, NOT A BLUDGEON.

INVESTIGATIVE MATTERS. OR REALLY WEIRD STUFF OFF THE BEATEN PATH.



YOU GOT WAY MORE LOCAL CONTACTS THAN WE DO...

...AND CAN GET THINGS DONE UNDER THE RADAR.

YOU'RE A GOOD TEAM. YOU CAN HELP US.



A GOOD TEAM? HAVE YE MET US LATELY?

WE CAN PULL IT TOGETHER. WE HAVE BEFORE.

RIGHT NOW I'M NOT SURE IF WE SHOULD BOTHER.

YEAH, I SAW YOU GUYS WERE HAVING SOME TROUBLE BOUNCING BACK AFTER LOSIN' MADROX.

SO I TOOK THE LIBERTY OF ASKING SOME FOLKS TO COME OVER.

GIVE YA SOME LEADERSHIP HELP, IF YOU WANT IT.



IN FACT, HERE THEY ARE NOW.

WAIT A MINUTE. "LEADERSHIP HELP?" SCREW THAT!

AYE! WHAT DOES SOME OUTSIDER KNOW ABOUT LEADING...



...X-FACTOR...?

WELL...FOR STARTERS, RAHNE...

WE'VE DONE
IT BEFORE, AND
HEY...*GUIDO*...

NICE
HAIR CUT.



X-FACTOR WITNESSES

WRITE TO US AT
OFFICEX@MARVEL.COM
AND MARK
"OK TO PRINT!"

Peter David here, welcoming you back to another X-Factor letters page, where we can finally take the spoiler gloves off and discuss the ending of this issue...which I swear was intended as a surprise ending before the Mighty Marvel Publicity Machine got rolling. But hey, if it put new eyes on our favorite underdog mutants, it's all good. On with your thoughts...

Dear PAD and X-Factor Team:

Huge fan your X-Factor writing. Some of the aspects I enjoy most are the deep character development and the long-term story lines. Along those lines, I have a few questions:

1: Now that Layla is an adult and Quicksilver is back to being a good guy, any chance the two will have a confrontation? I'd love to see them interact now in there vastly different roles.

2: Is there any chance you could add Elixir (Josh Foley) into an X-Factor arc or as a permanent team member? I know the X-Factor cast is getting extremely crowded, but Elixir is a great character. He has a romantic history with Wolfsbane, some amazing powers, and emotional turmoil. I think he'd make a great addition/guest star. Plus I wouldn't really trust him with most writers, but you are not most writers.

3: When are we going to see Rahne's son again? I really hope that storyline picks up again soon.

4: It's been quite a while since we've seen one of Madrox's rogue dupes. Any possibility of seeing one of them soon?

Thanks again for the great writing, amazing character development, and outstanding overall work you do.

Frey Seagrove, RH

Thanks for writing, Frey, although the "RN" makes me wonder if you're from County Roscommon in Ireland, in the Royal Navy, or a Registered Nurse. On to your questions:

1: Boy, a LOT of people would like to see Pietro and Layla square off. No immediate plans, but with that much interest, I think it safe to say we'll be getting around to it.

2: You answered your own question. The cast IS getting extremely crowded, and when it comes to relationships, I'd rather be focusing on our current cast instead of bringing in new folks.

3: Well, we just had Rahne's daughter (mwaaa-ha-ha). As for her son, there will be major events regarding that dangling story within the next few months.

4: Not for a while. Madrox has enough problems.

Dear Mr. David,

Being an X-Men-Fan since, I believe, 1988, I recently asked myself, why is X-Factor the only X-book I've been reading constantly since its relaunch in 2006 and even before that in the Madrox mini-series of 2004/05. That's almost eighty issues. The reason is: its sense of humor.

X-Factor has the most mature humor in the Marvel Universe. Of course Spidey has his jokes, Deadpool and Tony Stark do, too, and even grumpy old Wolverine has his one-liners...but the dialogue in X-Factor, through treating modern day man's problems with sincerity, is the best there is. You don't shy away from sexual, political or religious references. In fact I think your book is the only adult book of Marvel's output and it's the most sexual. Reading it, I sometimes think, "How does he get away with it?" Do you bribe the editors?

Your humor is absolutely iconoclastic, your innuendo is priceless and I love all those pop-cultural allusions. And beyond that there's Madrox, not exactly a heavy hitter, who keeps together this motley crew of troubled individuals because obviously he's the only one with enough empathy to do so. Humor and humanity: that's a great combination. I hope Marvel has the courage to keep you at the helm of X-Factor for a very long time and that you will continue to push back boundaries.

Thank you, and greetings from Germany.
Hanno Friedrich

Apparently it's unusual name day here at the lettercoll! Hanna, have you met Frey? And just between you, me, and the bazillion people reading this, sometimes I'm amazed (and grateful) what the fine folks at Marvel let me do in this book. Plus, actually, let's face it: you guys make it possible for me to do what I do because you keep coming back for more.

Dear Peter (et al.),

First things first. I'm loving X-Factor. I love what you've done with the characters, especially Madrox and Rictor. But Rictor is why I'm writing. I see so much of myself in him. Good with computers? Me. Scruffily handsome? Me again. Occasionally mohawked? Got that. Sometimes being depressed enough to be suicidal? Been there. Having that triggered by a loss of an ability? Been there. Regaining said ability and wanting to avoid things that remind me of when I couldn't do it? Been there. In fact, his general personality has a tendency to line up with mine in so many ways that I'm tempted to get a sweater made to match the one he wore in the early issues of this volume!

But there's one major thing that's been bugging me about him, and it's not actually happened in the comics. People are calling him gay.

From what I've read, Rictor is bisexual. Having relationships with both men and women is pretty much the defining characteristic. His relationship with Rahne was clearly both emotional and sexual, and it's not the first relationship he's had with a female. As a non-stereotypical, out, bisexual guy myself, I find that people have a tendency to be confused if I say something like "I have a big crush on Natalie Portman" and follow it up with something like "I have a big crush on Chris Evans." (Both true facts, by the way.)

With that in mind, having other characters be confused by Rictor's relationship with Shatterstar is realistic and completely acceptable to me, but seeing "Rictor is gay" when actual people are discussing the storyline gets my hackles up. Bisexuality is real. It's not true that people are "either gay, straight, or lying" or that bi folk have to be equally attracted to both genders (Personally, I find the ladies to be considerably more attractive than the fellas, in general). So if a character swings from a relationship with someone of the opposite gender to a relationship with someone of the same gender, that character is not suddenly gay.

Considering the number of impressionable minds (and in fact, the number of people overall) who read comics, I think it's fair of me to ask you to use the correct terms when discussing your work. The more you say things like "bisexual" or "bi", the easier it becomes for folks like me and Rictor.

That said, keep up the good work in the book! I can't wait to see what comes next!

Brian MacDonald

See, here's the thing, Brian: my understanding is that many gay men had earlier relationships with women that were passionate and sexual, but ultimately they realized where their true interests were. That's how I'm portraying Rictor: a sense of "been there, done that," and now he's ready to come to grips with who he is. That's also some of the basis for the conflict with Shatterstar, because 'Star is unquestionably bi and quite happily so. So because the course of true love never runs smoothly, you've got Rictor and Shatterstar both drawn together and also pulled apart by their respective desires. I hope that works for you. And if it doesn't, well....at least you're still scruffily handsome.

Hello, Peter and the whole X-Factor Team,

X-Factor is hands down the best book Marvel has to offer. I discovered this title late in the game, but with the Marvel Chrome App and a few graphic novels I was able to catch up quickly. Reading the stories back to back to back was a

wonderful experience and really highlighted how strong this series is.

I have always loved Madrox and it's great to see so many characters that I have enjoyed over the years find a home in X-Factor. Longshot is one of my favorite characters of all time (probably because of Claremont). Every member of the team is a great choice.

I also love that this title stands on its own. Rarely do we have to buy all 7,000 X titles to know what's really going on. Again, one book, one writer, great art, great editors equals, in my mind, the strongest Marvel title in years.

Thank you,
Richard Kemp

And thank you, Richard. And don't feel badly about being late in the game; it's never too late for X-Factor!

Hello to the X-Factor team!

Thank you for always putting out an interesting, fun book that hits all the right notes. Adventure, mystery, crazy mythological dealings, humor, and the loony soap opera qualities of any fine X-team book. (Seriously...you can probably do a six degrees of separation for everyone in the book based on who has slept or dated each other. I'll leave this up to a more passionate fan to figure this out.) I'm loving the lineup and all the fun interplay between all the characters. Great art, great story, great job all.

On a more...ah...T+ side note...physics-wise, when people fly, do you think they have equal buoyancy across their entire bodies? Issue 226 got me thinking on the science of flight. Some fliers rely on lift...like Banshee. Others though, like Monet who has no obvious propulsion mechanism, almost certainly can't rely on lift for flight if she can control her flying so carefully that she can walk on water. Controlled buoyancy? If this is true...well...that might explain why certain things appear to defy gravity. Controlled flight, so to speak. Thoughts? Think this might be worthy of a PhD topic in physics in the Marvel U?

Until Strong Guy decides his name is overcompensating and renames himself Average Guy, Make Mine Marvel!

Cheers,
Nate Butler

My understanding of Monet's power, Nate, is that it's TK based. So I imagine she levitates herself and then "pushes off" against whatever is near her for propulsion. Which means, I suppose, that if she were in the depths of outer space, she'd just float there looking pissed off. But she'd be pissed off with style!

Dear X-Factor team:

Sadly, I haven't been able to buy comics in the past two years or so and as such, have fallen off a bit. Now that I'm back, X-Factor was one of the first titles I made sure was on my pull list and as always, you deliver! You consistently produce such great stories with such a unique bunch that make your book so ill. You guys made Madrox one of my favorite characters and I may or may not have a crush on Layla. So thanks for keeping comics great!

Until Squirrel Girl beats Guido arm wrestling, Make Mine Marvel!

Nik Hampshire

Thanks, Nik. Just one question: "ill" is good? I've heard "sick" used as a positive, but not "ill." Geez...no wonder I don't understand debates over health care insurance; I don't even know what ill and sick mean anymore.

PAD

